

THE PROPOSED GYMNASIUM.

Mens sana in corpore sano is being made to do its duty in the city papers at present, the wherefore being the discussion on the projected Athletic Association. Toronto feels the need of a gymnasium and club-house, and it is now proposed to remedy the want by forming a company to erect a building of the desired proportions and equipment. An influential committee has been drafted, plans prepared and a considerable amount of stock subscribed, all of which gives ground for hope that the scheme will not prove a visionary one. Here at the University we require a gymnasium and club-house equally as much as do the athletes of the city, and were our prospects of obtaining one as soon as they equally as bright as are theirs we should be happy. That one will be ours sometime is of course a certainty, but the space of time that will elapse ere its erection will probably be considerable.

In his address at Convocation last June Vice-Chancellor Blake clearly demonstrated the necessity of a gymnasium, and showed his practical appreciation of the real needs of the University by placing it, in order of pressing importance, next to the library and before Convocation Hall. Would that all in power around the University were of a like opinion. Some three years ago the Literary Society made a move in the right direction by appointing a committee to solicit subscriptions, and if the statement of one of the city papers is to be relied upon \$15,000 was obtained. We doubt the authenticity of this, but as the committee has not reported progress to the society we are not in a position to say. The society should like very much to know if such an amount has been subscribed. Perhaps the chairman will be able to give some information. It would be acceptable at this juncture.

The foregoing has been but preparatory to a few remarks that THE VARSITY wishes to make with regard to that phase of the city scheme that very directly concerns the students. It has been suggested that the city and university authorities unite plans on this question, and that the latter give in payment of some \$30,000 or \$40,000 worth of stock a site for the building some place in the vicinity of the University. It is also asked that the subscription lists of the University committee be placed in the hands of the company for collection, and the proceeds handed over to that company to forward their project. In return for this the students would be allowed the use of the building at a nominal rate. That this proposal is made in all seriousness is evidenced by a column article in the *World* and an editorial in the same paper. It is to this scheme that we wish to make some reference.

To be plain, THE VARSITY is most strenuously opposed to the adoption of any such plan, and in this attitude we believe we represent undergraduate opinion on the subject. Since the publication of its details we have talked over the matter with many of the most influential men in college, and almost without exception every one has expressed entire disapproval. More than one has remarked that it would be far better to wait ten years and then get a gymnasium for ourselves than to throw away all our chances of ever achieving that end by nibbling at the bait now dangling before us. This is what is virtually meant by entering upon such a line of action as some would have us. A university should have a gymnasium of its own and for its own students, and the University of Toronto must and will have one sooner or later. Then why preclude all possibility of obtaining one by such an opportunist action as is now proposed to us?

What the University authorities may think of the presentation of a site we cannot say, but we feel sure that the idea of turning over the subscriptions obtained for a University gymnasium will be viewed with disfavor. We doubt very much if those who have subscribed would consent to honor their subscriptions if their money was to be diverted into other channels from those for which it was intended. They have subscribed as graduates and friends of the University, and they wish their money used for their Alma Mater alone. Circumstances are against our Uni-

versity, receiving frequent contributions from private liberality, and we should not render them more so by even proposing to treat our friends in such an unceremonious manner. This consideration alone is sufficient to condemn the scheme in the eyes of all well-wishers of the College. Other reasons are not far to seek.

Our wants would not be supplied by accepting the city gymnasium and club-house. What is needed here is a place where the students could congregate at all times, where the Literary Society could hold its meetings, where THE VARSITY could have its office, where entertainments could be given, where each athletic club could have its dressing-rooms in close proximity to the campus, and where the conveniences of a gymnasium could be obtained at all times and at a small cost. It is exactly such a place as we have described that we need, and it is exactly this that the big city club-house will not give us. Our wants with regard to a gymnasium might be supplied, but for that matter that might be done at present if we felt inclined to pay for the use of some of the gymnasiums in the city.

Then again, one result of such an action would assuredly be a decline in that student spirit, so important for the welfare of any college however great. Uniting in a general combination the students would no longer be a unit but mere individuals with very little tie to bind them together as they should be. This appears to be one of the most formidable arguments against what is proposed. On the whole, the considerations that affect the student are entirely against any action such as it is desired we take. The only thing to commend the scheme, is that the use of a well-equipped gymnasium could be obtained sooner than on our own plan. For the city scheme we have nothing but well-wishes; we hope that it will be a splendid success. But our path and its must be entirely different.

THE FROST KING AND HIS VICTIM.

"Oh, thou bright Monarch of the day,
Thou beam of life, oh, pity me,
And cast thy warming rays this way.
The Frost King surely thou dost see,
With his ten thousand icy stings,
Each piercing like a viper's fangs,
Now sticks my frame, freezes the springs
Of life, with oh! such bitter pangs.
The stormy blizzard's bite withhold;
Save from the penetrating blast.
Now answer comes, and flees the cold;
A home-like bliss is reached at last.
What siren measures do I hear?
What ravish strains break o'er my soul?
The songs I love, the airs that cheer,
The gentle trills, the charming whole?
What gorgeous sights are these I see
That pale the visions of the past?
Such beauteous forms enchanting me!
Such flashing prisms in golden cast!

"Here comes the Master of the Hall,
With beard full white and flowing hair;
Fair daughters follow at his call,
And all is joy and comfort there."

"My tired sir, be welcome here,
On couches soft thy limbs may rest,
Or loose thyself in goodly cheer,
Where thou art such a pleasing guest.
He falls— Sir, thou art well deceived.
I turned to divans, snowshoe tracks,
In whistling winds light airs conceived,
The snowy woods, no sculpture lacks:
Take him, thou brilliant, glistening Snow;
Now be his winding-sheet and shroud;
Or o'er his stiffened form may blow
The winds, or come the wolfish crowd."

E. R. Y.